



NEWS FROM THE 1st DISTRICT

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday, the Boston Globe Spotlight Team published a report detailing whistleblower allegations of unacceptable failures at the Manchester VA Medical Center that led to substandard care and patient harm. The report is deeply troubling, and I support the decision to perform a full investigation by the VA Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection, which was created earlier this year by the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act I voted for and President Trump signed into law. I am closely monitoring all current Manchester investigations.

On Wednesday, the Manchester VAMC suffered a catastrophic pipe failure that flooded several floors of the facility. The VAMC has been working to reschedule appointments for all the veterans who have been impacted. The affected services are primarily optometry, audiology, same-day operations, and the women's clinic. Mobile clinics have been sent to Manchester and should arrive by Monday morning.

New Hampshire veterans deserve the highest standard of care, and I will not rest until I am sure those standards are being met. My office is in frequent communication with VA leadership as well as the rest of the New Hampshire delegation as we closely monitor these problems. If your Manchester appointments have been impacted by the flood and you need assistance, please contact my office at 285-4300.

Fighting back against anti-environment legislation

As the founder and co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Asthma and Allergies Caucus, I'm working to raise awareness of the connection between air pollution and breathing problems. That's why I was so disappointed this week when my Republican colleagues in the House passed H.R. 806, the 'Smoggy Skies Act.' This bill will delay badly needed restrictions that would have tamped down how much smog polluters can release into the air we all breathe. Our job is to protect children's lungs and to stop diseases like asthma and COPD – not to make people sick or to make it easier for polluters. Read more about the bill [here](#).

I also voted against H.R. 2910, a Republican bill to allow natural gas companies to expand the use of eminent domain and conduct surveys of private land without the consent of the landowner, which passed the House by a vote of 248-179. Billion-dollar natural gas companies have no right to infringe on Americans' private property – end of story. This effort to derail the

pipeline approval process would not only allow expanded use of eminent domain, but also deny communities the opportunity to participate in the public input process. Instead, it gives corporations free rein to cause irreparable harm to the environment.

Building bipartisan momentum for Pease health study

I led 11 Members of Congress this week in a letter asking for \$7 million to launch a national health impact study of sites like Pease affected by the U.S. military's historic use of perfluorinated chemicals.

The geographic diversity of the letter's cosigners, who represent states everywhere from Pennsylvania to Washington State, reflects the national scope of PFC contamination. Now that we have established that groundwater contamination exists and that the current body of evidence indicates a clear danger of long-term health risks, we can begin to remedy past mistakes by launching this much-needed study.

Standing up for animals

Yesterday, I wrote to Governor Sununu about the need for stronger state animal protection laws following last month's discovery of inhumane conditions at an unregistered Great Dane puppy mill in Wolfeboro.



*The Wolfeboro puppies, now being cared for by Humane Society volunteers.
Photo credit: Humane Society of the United States*

New Hampshire's laws would better protect animals if they included a reasonable threshold for the number of dogs permitted for breeding before being subject to inspection.

[Read the letter here.](#)

Closing thoughts

Not too many people know the full scope of the work my staff in New Hampshire does every day to help constituents and communities in the First District. Here are a few photos from this week:



Elise, our constituent services director, meets with Leonard Morin at our monthly Veterans Open Office Hours at Sweeney Post in Manchester. See upcoming office hours listed [here](#).



The District Office celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Moultonborough Recreation Area and its new name -- Kraine Meadow Park. This important community hub was built with support from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.



At the annual meeting of the New Hampshire Providers Association, a group of substance and alcohol use disorder treatment professionals, my team offered words of support and thanks.

As always, thank you for the honor of representing you in Congress.

Best wishes,

Carol

This week's press releases

- [**Shea-Porter Asks Governor Sununu to Strengthen Animal Protection Laws After Wolfeboro Puppy Mill Case**](#)
- [**Shea-Porter Votes Against Republican Bill to Let Natural Gas Companies Further Abuse Eminent Domain Authority**](#)
- [**ICYMI: Shea-Porter, 115 House Democrats Demand Stronger Investments in Teachers**](#)
- [**ICYMI: Shea-Porter, More Than 120 House Democrats Slam Proposed Cuts to Pell Grant Program**](#)
- [**Shea-Porter Statement on Pipe Failure at Manchester Veterans Affairs Medical Center**](#)
- [**Shea-Porter Statement on "Smoggy Skies Act"**](#)
- [**Shea-Porter Leads Bipartisan Letter Urging Congress to Fund PFC Health Study**](#)
- [**Shea-Porter Statement on Boston Globe Spotlight Report**](#)



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